

Waller, Assistant Surgeon-General, has been received by the California Medical Association.

I note the address of your sister, Mrs. ——— is ——— Street, Los Angeles, California, and that you write that a physician who states he can cure her has told her she has stomach trouble and rheumatism.

I note that Assistant Surgeon-General Waller, in his letter of September 7th states: "Accordingly a copy of your letter is being referred to your State Health Officer, Dr. Walter M. Dickie, of California, and to the Medical Society of your State. It is hoped that one of these services may be able to furnish the necessary aid or treatment."

For your information, I may add that the California Medical Association has no facilities for furnishing surgical or medical care to citizens of California. Also that the State Board of Public Health is probably in the same position, because its function is to prevent rather than to treat disease.

If your sister and her husband are in destitute circumstances it would be proper for one or the other to apply to the Bureau of Outdoor Relief of the County of Los Angeles or to the Los Angeles Community Chest organization. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Los Angeles County Medical Association, 1925 Wilshire Boulevard, for the information of that organization.

You state that you have been in Los Angeles only three months. The California law makes it impossible to admit patients to its county hospitals unless there has been at least one or two years' prior residence. Of course, emergency aid is given for acute illness or injuries.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE H. KRESS, M.D.,  
Secretary.

**Subject: Tenth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, Washington.**

*To the Editor:*—Enclosed herewith is a copy of the tentative program of the Tenth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, including a suggested notice. This notice was published in the International Bulletin of the Congress, which is printed at Liège, Belgium. The Organizing Committee of the Tenth Congress would very much appreciate a notice in your journal relative to the next meeting of the Congress in Washington, D. C., May 7 to 15, 1939. . . .

Registration is without fee, and blanks will be sent to all persons who are interested on application to the Secretary General. Thanking you for your coöperation in this matter, believe me, my dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

HAROLD W. JONES,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, U. S. A.

P. S.—Address all communications to the Secretary General, Army Medical Library, Seventh Street and Independence Avenue, Southwest, Washington, D. C.

The forthcoming International Congress (tenth) of Military Medicine and Pharmacy will be held in Washington May 7 to 15, 1939. Invitations to participate have been sent to every country by the President of the United States, and already acceptances have been received from several countries. A full scientific and social program has been arranged and will shortly be mailed to all the countries to which invitations were sent. A large registration is hoped for and every effort will be made by the committee in charge to make the Congress an attractive one to those participating. General Charles R. Reynolds, the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, will be the president of the Congress. Registration is open to all officers of the medical services of the Army, Navy, Air, and Colonial services, National Guard, territorial forces and public health service, whether active or reserve.

Colonel Harold W. Jones of the Army Medical Corps is Secretary General. The secretarial office is at the Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C.

#### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

First Question.—The Organization and Function of the Medical Services in Colonial Expeditions.

Reporters: Italy and the United States of America.

Second Question.—Probable Casualties in War and Methods of Calculation.

Reporters: Germany and the United States of America.

Third Question.—Practical Procedures for Anesthesia and Analgesia in War Surgery.

Reporters: Brazil and the United States of America.

Fourth Question.—Organization and Function of the Military Chemico-Pharmaceutical Service.

Reporters: Argentina and Czechoslovakia.

Fifth Question.—Emergency Treatment and Primary Apparatus for Fractures of the Jaws in War.

Reporters: England and the United States of America.

Sixth Question.—Technical Specialization of Administrative Officers in the Medical Service.

Reporters: Mexico and the United States of America.

Seventh Question.—Oxygen Therapy and Its Practical Use with Troops on Active Service.

Reporters: Belgium and the United States of America.

**Subject: Postgraduate Course of the San Joaquin County Medical Society.**

(COPY)

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY  
Committee on Postgraduate Activities  
C. A. Broaddus, Chairman  
A. L. Van Meter  
Samuel Hanson  
C. V. Thompson  
W. H. L. Collis  
J. O. Eccleston

Stockton, California,  
September 1, 1938.

*To the Editor:*—We enclose herewith a prospectus for the Fourth Annual Graduate Study Series to be held in Stockton this fall under the auspices of the San Joaquin County Medical Society. We believe you will find this bigger and better than ever before.

Through the courtesy of Dr. William Friedberger of the San Joaquin General Hospital we are able to offer four clinics during the course—two surgical and two medical. This is a mighty fine addition to our usual program, and we are very grateful to the Doctor for his fine coöperation.

In order to meet the expenses of the course the usual fee of \$5 will be charged, which entitles the registrants to all the privileges of the lectures and clinics, both in Stockton and at the San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp.

Very truly yours,

(Signed): THE COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES.

PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL GRADUATE SERIES  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY  
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER, 1938

Thursday, September 22, 8:00 p. m.

Clubrooms, Medico-Dental Building

Dr. A. L. Van Meter, Chairman

Electrocardiography: Its Interpretation and Its Application in Relation to Treatment, Dr. William Dock and Associate.

Electrocardiography will be discussed by Doctor Dock and his associate. Liberal time will be allowed for answering questions, and an hour will be devoted to a review of the newer treatment of the common types of cardiac disease.

Thursday, September 29, 8:00 p. m.

Clubrooms, Medico-Dental Building

Dr. A. L. Van Meter, Chairman

Metabolic Disturbances as Seen in Hyperthyroidism, Myxedema, Calcium Disturbance, Addison's Disease, Cushing's Disease, Dr. Hans Lissner.

No comment is necessary when Doctor Lissner is the speaker. Those of you who have heard him previously

will appreciate the interesting evening in store for you. Those of you who are to hear him for the first time will be delighted with his presentation.

1 1 1

Saturday, October 1

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. Samuel Hanson, Chairman

Surgical Clinic.

Proctology.

Consisting of a diagnostic and operative clinic on rectal diseases.

Dr. James W. Morgan, University of California.

One major and several minor rectal operations will be demonstrated, dependent upon the material at hand. Free discussion of diagnosis and treatment during operations as well in a special period devoted to that purpose afterward. Hemorrhoids and anal fistula will be given special attention.

1 1 1

Saturday, October 8,

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. Samuel Hanson, Chairman

Surgical Clinic.

Thoracoplastic Operations, Dr. Paul K. Samson and Dr. Elliot P. Smart.

Special attention will be given to the diagnostic points indicating the need for operative measures in tubercular chest conditions.

1 1 1

Thursday, October 20, 8:00 p. m.

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. J. W. Barnes, Chairman

Medical Clinic.

A Clinical Presentation of Medical Cases, Dr. W. J. Kerr, San Francisco.

The type of cases will be governed by the material available in the hospital at the time.

1 1 1

Thursday, November 17, 8:00 p. m.

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. J. W. Barnes, Chairman

Medical Clinic.

A Clinical Presentation of Medical Cases.

Visiting speaker from out of the State (to be announced later).

**Subject: Certain advertised "vitality" products.**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 21, 1938.

*To the Editor:*—I am enclosing herewith copies of correspondence for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.

1 1 1

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 10, 1938.

[Name of firm addressed]

Dear Sir:

It has come to my notice from several sources that there is a nationally advertised product purporting to contain all the necessary substances for vitality and which is being offered for sale through department stores.

Without attempting to pass on the possible value of this product with relation to its vital content, I wish to go on record, as Director of Public Health, against this form of the practice of medicine by commercial concerns. The incomplete scientific knowledge available at this time on the possible effects of the consumption of vitamins over an indefinite period of time fully justifies the attitude that caution should be observed in the use of such products. There is considerable question of what constitutes the proper dosage of vitamins in the various age groups.

An attempt to commercialize the sale of a product containing substances whose value to the general public health

is still controversial is indeed ill-advised. Even if it is granted that the actual danger from the consumption of these products is relatively small there is as yet no definite information on the limits of safety. Vitamins are definitely in the class of medications and under that circumstance should be under the administration of a physician who has an opportunity to observe the progress of his patient rather than to be in the hands of a commercial distributor whose sole interest is the sale of his manufactured product and who may promise things that can't be delivered.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.

1 1 1

(COPY)

[Name of Firm addressed]

September 16, 1938.

Dr. J. C. Geiger,  
Director of Public Health,  
Department of Public Health,  
101 Grove Street,  
San Francisco, California.  
Dear Doctor Geiger:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter purported to have been written and signed by you that has just been received by me from my customer, — Company in San Francisco.

Although you carefully name no names, my customer feels that your letter is, in some way, connected with [name of product]. As we both know, there are scores of products on the market all of which are in one way or another sold through department stores throughout the whole United States. I am returning this entire correspondence to [name of company] with the statement that I am sure that no man in your position would write such a letter as this about [name of product]. There must be some mistake.

Surely, a well-informed medical man of your high office knows that [name of product] is a biologically standardized product which supplies only those vitamins already thoroughly explored, which makes none but thoroughly credited, accepted claims on or within the package, and that the product is regularly sold by duly accredited and registered pharmacists under a specific ruling of the California State Board of Pharmacy. Consequently, I am writing my friends the [name of company] that there must be some mistake. We are sure that you cannot be referring to [name of product].

We would appreciate an acknowledgment of this letter.

Respectfully,

(Signed): HENRY B. SELL,  
President.

1 1 1

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 21, 1938.

My dear Mr. [name of firm]

In reply to your communication concerning vitamin products on the market, I am enclosing a copy of an executive order issued in 1934 concerning vitamin D milk. This represents the attitude of this department today just as it did four years ago.

I also wish to call your attention to the following action taken by the French Government:

"In December, 1936, the Academy of Medicine, in considering the question of the increase of the vitamin content of certain foodstuffs (milk in all its forms, flour, pastes, sugar, chocolate, etc.), pointed out that, while products thus treated are capable of having a useful action under certain circumstances, they are also capable of producing serious troubles, even death. Foods which have undergone special treatment with a view of giving them therapeutic properties must be considered as actual medicaments."

The administration of powerful medicaments should be under the constant supervision of a physician.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.